



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : D21H 11/20	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/27363 (43) International Publication Date: 31 July 1997 (31.07.97)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/DK97/00034 (22) International Filing Date: 23 January 1997 (23.01.97) (30) Priority Data: 60/010,658 26 January 1996 (26.01.96) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): NOVO NORDISK A/S [DK/DK]; Novo Allé, DK-2880 Bagsvaerd (DK). (71) Applicant (for JP only): CRECIA CORPORATION [JP/JP]; Shinjuku Square Tower 5F, 6-22-1, Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163-11 (JP). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SHARYO, Masaki [JP/JP]; 365-1, Hachigasaki, Matsudo-shi, Chiba 270 (JP). SAKAGUCHI, Hiromichi [JP/JP]; 3-67-24, Asumigaoka, 1165-31 Yasashido-cho, Midori-ku, Chiba 267 (JP). ONISHI, Masahiro [JP/JP]; Gardencourt 202, 1074, Oji-cho, Midori-ku, Chiba 267 (JP). TAKAHASHI, Mamoru [JP/JP]; 31-1-505, Shinomiya, Hiratsuka-shi, Kanagawa 254 (JP). KIDA, Katsunori [JP/JP]; 256-1, Fukuura, Yugawara-machi, Ashigarashimo-gun, Kanagawa 259-03 (JP). TAMAGAWA, Hitoshi [JP/JP]; 1046, Kayama,		Odawara-shi, Kanagawa 250 (JP). SCHÜLEIN, Martin [DK/DK]; Wiedeweltsgade 51, DK-2100 Copenhagen OE (DK). FRANKS, Neal, E. [US/US]; 5824 Norwood Oaks Drive, Raleigh, NC 27614 (US). (74) Common Representative: NOVO NORDISK A/S; Corporate Patents, Novo Allé, DK-2880 Bagsvaerd (DK). (81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: PRODUCTION OF SANITARY PAPER (57) Abstract Sanitary paper with improved softness (lower stiffness) can be obtained without significant loss of paper strength by using a papermaking pulp which is treated with a certain type of cellulase component. The cellulase component in question is characterized by not containing a cellulose-binding domain (CBD), and is more effective for making softer sanitary paper than a conventional cellulase preparation which contains a mixture of various cellulase components with and without a CBD.		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AM	Armenia	GB	United Kingdom	MW	Malawi
AT	Austria	GE	Georgia	MX	Mexico
AU	Australia	GN	Guinea	NE	Niger
BB	Barbados	GR	Greece	NL	Netherlands
BE	Belgium	HU	Hungary	NO	Norway
BF	Burkina Faso	IE	Ireland	NZ	New Zealand
BG	Bulgaria	IT	Italy	PL	Poland
BJ	Benin	JP	Japan	PT	Portugal
BR	Brazil	KE	Kenya	RO	Romania
BY	Belarus	KG	Kyrgyzstan	RU	Russian Federation
CA	Canada	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CF	Central African Republic	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CG	Congo	KZ	Kazakhstan	SG	Singapore
CH	Switzerland	LI	Liechtenstein	SI	Slovenia
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LK	Sri Lanka	SK	Slovakia
CM	Cameroon	LR	Liberia	SN	Senegal
CN	China	LT	Lithuania	SZ	Swaziland
CS	Czechoslovakia	LU	Luxembourg	TD	Chad
CZ	Czech Republic	LV	Latvia	TG	Togo
DE	Germany	MC	Monaco	TJ	Tajikistan
DK	Denmark	MD	Republic of Moldova	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
EE	Estonia	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
ES	Spain	ML	Mali	UG	Uganda
FI	Finland	MN	Mongolia	US	United States of America
FR	France	MR	Mauritania	UZ	Uzbekistan
GA	Gabon			VN	Viet Nam

PRODUCTION OF SANITARY PAPER

TECHNICAL FIELD

5 This invention relates to a method for making sanitary paper.

BACKGROUND ART

10 Sanitary paper such as toilet paper, facial tissue paper, paper napkin, wiper, paper towel, sanitary napkin, diaper etc. is commonly made from papermaking pulp. It is generally desirable to make the sanitary paper softer without reducing the paper strength.

15 Japanese laid-open patent application Tokkai Hei (JP-A) 5-148794 discloses that a treatment of the pulp with a cellulase preparation is effective for this purpose. The cellulase preparations described therein are produced by cultivation of microorganisms and are known to contain mixtures of various
20 cellulase components with and without cellulose binding domains.

It is the purpose of this invention to improve the known process to achieve a better effect.

STATEMENT OF THE INVENTION

25

We have, surprisingly, found a certain type of cellulase component to be very effective in reducing the paper stiffness without significant loss of paper strength (or, in some cases, even with an increase of paper strength). The cellulase component
30 in question is characterized by not containing a cellulose-binding domain (CBD), and is more effective than a conventional cellulase preparation which contains a mixture of various cellulase components.

Accordingly, the invention provides a method wherein a
35 papermaking pulp is treated with a cellulase in the absence of a cellulose-binding domain. The treated pulp is used for making sanitary paper.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Sanitary paper

5 The sanitary paper produced according to the invention may be toilet paper, facial tissue paper, wiper, paper napkin, paper towel, sanitary napkin, diaper etc.

Papermaking pulp

10 Any papermaking pulp conventionally used for the production of sanitary paper can be treated according to the invention. This pulp can be supplied as a virgin pulp, or can be derived from a recycled source.

 The papermaking pulp may be a wood pulp, a non-wood pulp or
15 a pulp made from waste paper. A wood pulp may be made from softwood such as pine, redwood, fir, spruce, cedar and hemlock or from hardwood such as maple, alder, birch, hickory, beech, aspen, acacia and eucalyptus. A non-wood pulp may be made, e.g., from bagasse, bamboo, cotton or kenaf. A waste paper pulp may be made
20 by re-pulping waste paper such as newspaper, mixed office waste, computer print-out, white ledger, magazines, milk cartons, paper cups etc.

 Preferably, the papermaking pulp to be treated comprises both hardwood pulp and softwood pulp. Advantageously, we have
25 found that a cellulase without a cellulose-binding domain (CBD) used according to the invention is particularly effective for softening such a mixed pulp. Thus, the papermaking pulp may comprise 5-95 % (particularly 25-75 %) of softwood pulp and 5-95 % (particularly 25-75 %) of hardwood pulp (% of pulp dry
30 matter).

 The wood pulp to be treated may be mechanical pulp (such as ground wood pulp, GP), chemical pulp (such as Kraft pulp or sulfite pulp), semichemical pulp (SCP), thermomechanical pulp (TMP), chemithermomechanical pulp (CTMP), or bleached chemi-
35 thermomechanical pulp (BCTMP).

 The Kraft pulp to be treated may be a bleached Kraft pulp, which may consist of softwood bleached Kraft (SWBK, also called

NBKP), hardwood bleached Kraft (HWBK, also called LBKP) or a mixture of these. A good softening effect according to the invention is seen with a mixture of NBKP and LBKP, e.g. with a weight ratio (on dry basis) of NBKP : LBKP in the range from 3:1 to 1:3. One preferred mixture consists of SWBK having a coarseness above 18 and HWBK having a coarseness above 10. Another preferred mixture consists of SWBK having a coarseness below 18 and HWBK having a coarseness below 10. The coarseness of the pulp is determined according to TAPPI method T271 (pm-91) and is expressed in units of mg per 100 m.

When treating a waste paper pulp, the cellulase treatment can take place during or after pulping of the waste paper. The cellulase treatment can simultaneously serve to release ink particles from the cellulose fibers, whereafter the released ink particles can be removed to obtain a de-inked pulp, as described in JP-A 59-9299, JP-A 63-59494, JP-A 2-80683, and JP-A 3-882.

The sanitary paper can be made from dried pulp. In this case, the cellulase treatment can be applied in the production of the dried pulp, or it can be applied during or after re-pulping (disintegration) of the dried pulp.

Cellulase without CBD

The invention uses a cellulase in the absence of a cellulose-binding domain (CBD). The term "cellulase" denotes an enzyme that contributes to the hydrolysis of cellulose, such as a cellobiohydrolase (Enzyme Nomenclature E.C. 3.2.1.91), an endoglucanase (hereinafter abbreviated as "EG", E.C. 3.2.1.4), or a beta-glucosidase (E.C. 3.2.1.21).

Cellulose-binding domains have been described by P. Tomme et al. in J.N. Saddler & M.H. Penner (eds.), "Enzymatic Degradation of Insoluble Carbohydrates" (ACS Symposium Series, No. 618), 1996. A number of cellulases are known to contain a catalytic domain without a CBD; such a cellulase may be used as such in the invention. It is also known that other cellulases contain a catalytic domain and a CBD; such a cellulase may be truncated to obtain a catalytic core domain without the CBD, and this core may be used in the invention.

The cellulase used in this invention may be a single component, or a mixture of cellulases may be used, provided each cellulase has no CBD.

Cellulases may be classified into families on the basis of amino-acid sequence similarities according to the classification system described in Henrissat, B. et al.: *Biochem. J.*, (1991), 280, p. 309-16, and Henrissat, B. et al.: *Biochem. J.*, (1993), 293, p. 781-788. Some preferred cellulases are those belonging to Family 5, 7, 12 and 45.

10

Family 5 cellulase

A preferred Family 5 cellulase without CBD is an alkaline cellulase derived from a strain of *Bacillus*. One such Family 5 cellulase is the endo-glucanase from *Bacillus* strain KSM-64 (FERM BP-2886). The cellulase and its amino acid sequence are described in JP-A 4-190793 (Kao) and Sumitomo et al., *Biosci. Biotech. Biochem.*, 56 (6), 872-877 (1992).

Another Family 5 cellulase from *Bacillus* is the endo-glucanase from strain KSM-635 (FERM BP-1485). The cellulase and its amino acid sequence are described in JP-A 1-281090 (Kao), US 4,945,053 and Y. Ozaki et al., *Journal of General Microbiology*, 1990, vol. 136, page 1973-1979.

A third Family 5 cellulase from *Bacillus* is the endo-glucanase from strain 1139. The cellulase and its amino acid sequence are described in Fukumori F. et al., *J. Gen. Microbiol.*, 132:2329-2335 (1986) and JP-A 62-232386 (Riken).

Yet another preferred Family 5 cellulase without CBD is an endo-beta-1,4-glucanase derived from a strain of *Aspergillus*, preferably *A. aculeatus*, most preferably the strain CBS 101.43, described in WO 93/20193 (Novo Nordisk).

Family 7 cellulase

The Family 7 cellulase may be derived from a strain of *Humicola*, preferably *H. insolens*. An example is endo-glucanase EG I derived from *H. insolens* strain DSM 1800, described in WO 91/17244 (Novo Nordisk). The mature cellulase has a sequence of the 415 amino acids shown at positions 21-435 in Fig. 14 of said

document and has a specific activity of 200 ECU/mg (based on pure enzyme protein). This cellulase may further be truncated at the C-terminal by up to 18 amino acids to contain at least 397 amino acids. As examples, the cellulase may be truncated to 402, 406, 5 408 or 412 amino acids. Another example is a variant thereof denoted endo-glucanase EG I* described in WO 95/24471 (Novo Nordisk) and having a sequence of 402 amino acids shown in Fig. 3 therein.

Alternatively, the Family 7 cellulase may be derived from a 10 strain of *Myceliophthora*, preferably *M. thermophila*, most preferably the strain CBS 117.65. An example is an endo-glucanase described in WO 95/24471 (Novo Nordisk) comprising the amino acids 21-420 and optionally also the amino acids 1-20 and/or 421-456 of the sequence shown in Fig. 6 therein.

15 As another alternative, the Family 7 cellulase may be derived from a strain of *Fusarium*, preferably *F. oxysporum*. An example is an endo-glucanase derived from *F. oxysporum* described in WO 91/17244 (Novo Nordisk) and Sheppard, P.O. et al., Gene. 150:163-167, 1994. The correct amino acid sequence is given in 20 the latter reference. This cellulase has a specific activity of 350 ECU/mg.

Family 12 cellulase

A preferred Family 12 cellulase without CBD is CMC 1 derived 25 from *Humicola insolens* DSM 1800, described in WO 93/11249 (Novo Nordisk).

Another preferred Family 12 cellulase without CBD is EG III cellulase from *Trichoderma*, particularly *Trichoderma viride* or *Trichoderma reesei*, described in WO 92/06184 (Genencor).

30 Alternatively, the Family 12 cellulase may be derived from a strain of *Myceliophthora*, preferably *M. thermophila*, most preferably the strain CBS 117.65. Such a cellulase (termed C173) can be produced by cloning DNA from CBS 117.65, and subsequently transforming *Aspergillus oryzae*, a non-cellulolytic host 35 organism, and expressing the cellulase by cultivation of the transformed host, and separating the only cellulolytic active ingredient from the culture broth. C173 has optimum activity at

pH 4-6.5, a specific activity of 226 ECU per mg protein and a molecular weight of 26 kDa (for the mature protein). The sequence of cDNA encoding C173 (from start codon to stop codon) and the amino acid sequence of the mature protein of C173 are shown in the sequence listing as SEQ ID NO: 1 and 2.

Family 45 cellulase

A preferred Family 45 cellulase without CBD is the EG V-core derived from *Humicola insolens*, described in Boisset, C., Borsali, R., Schulein, M., and Henrissat, B., FEBS Letters. 376:49-52, 1995. It has the amino acid sequence shown in positions 1-213 of SEQ ID NO: 1 of WO 91/17243 (Novo Nordisk).

Another preferred Family 45 cellulase without CBD is FICMCase from *Aspergillus aculeatus* described by Ooi et al., Nucleic Acids Research, Vol. 18, No. 19, p. 5884 (1990).

Single-component cellulase

Single component enzymes can be prepared economically by recombinant DNA technology, i.e. they can be produced by cloning of a DNA sequence encoding the single component, subsequently transforming a suitable host cell with the DNA sequence and expressing the component in the host. Accordingly, the DNA sequence encoding a useful cellulase may be isolated by a general method involving

- cloning, in suitable vectors, a DNA library e.g. from one of the microorganisms indicated later in this specification,
- transforming suitable yeast host cells with said vectors,
- culturing the host cells under suitable conditions to express any enzyme of interest encoded by a clone in the DNA library,
- screening for positive clones by determining any cellulase activity of the enzyme produced by such clones, and
- isolating the enzyme encoding DNA from such clones.

The general method is further disclosed in WO 94/14953 the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

The DNA sequence coding for a useful cellulase may for instance be isolated by screening a cDNA library of the

microorganism in question and selecting for clones expressing the appropriate enzyme activity (i.e. cellulase activity).

A DNA sequence coding for a homologous enzyme, i.e. an analogous DNA sequence, may be obtainable from other microorganisms. For instance, the DNA sequence may be derived by similarly screening a cDNA library of another fungus, such as a strain of an *Aspergillus* sp., in particular a strain of *A. aculeatus* or *A. niger*, a strain of *Trichoderma* sp., in particular a strain of *T. reesei*, *T. viride*, *T. longibrachiatum*, *T. harzianum* or *T. koningii* or a strain of a *Neocallimastix* sp., a *Piromyces* sp., a *Penicillium* sp., an *Agaricus* sp., or a *Phanerochaete* sp.

Alternatively, the DNA coding for a useful cellulase may, in accordance with well-known procedures, conveniently be isolated from DNA from a suitable source, such as any of the above mentioned organisms, by use of synthetic oligonucleotide probes prepared on the basis of a known DNA sequence.

The DNA sequence may subsequently be inserted into a recombinant expression vector. This may be any vector which may conveniently be subjected to recombinant DNA procedures, and the choice of vector will often depend on the host cell into which it is to be introduced. Thus, the vector may be an autonomously replicating vector, i.e. a vector which exists as an extra-chromosomal entity, the replication of which is independent of chromosomal replication, e.g. a plasmid. Alternatively, the vector may be one which, when introduced into a host cell, is integrated into the host cell genome and replicated together with the chromosome(s) into which it has been integrated.

In the vector, the DNA sequence encoding the cellulase should be operably connected to a suitable promoter and terminator sequence. The promoter may be any DNA sequence which shows transcriptional activity in the host cell of choice and may be derived from genes encoding proteins either homologous or heterologous to the host cell. The procedures used to ligate the DNA sequences coding for the cellulase, the promoter and the terminator, respectively, and to insert them into suitable vectors are well known to persons skilled in the art (cf., for

instance, Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning. A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 1989).

The host cell which is transformed with the DNA sequence is preferably a eukaryotic cell, in particular a fungal cell such as a yeast or filamentous fungal cell. In particular, the cell may belong to a species of *Aspergillus* or *Trichoderma*, most preferably *Aspergillus oryzae* or *Aspergillus niger*. Fungal cells may be transformed by a process involving protoplast formation and transformation of the protoplast followed by regeneration of the cell wall in a manner known per se. The use of *Aspergillus* as a host microorganism is described in EP 238 023 (Novo Nordisk A/S), the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference. The host cell may also be a yeast cell, e.g. a strain of *Saccharomyces*, in particular *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces kluyveri* or *Saccharomyces uvarum*, a strain of *Schizosaccharomyces* sp., such as *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, a strain of *Hansenula* sp., *Pichia* sp., *Yarrowia* sp. such as *Yarrowia lipolytica*, or *Kluyveromyces* sp. such as *Kluyveromyces lactis*.

In the present context, the term "homologous" or "homologous sequence" is intended to indicate an amino acid sequence differing from those shown in each of the sequence listings shown hereinafter, respectively, by one or more amino acid residues. The homologous sequence may be one resulting from modification of an amino acid sequence shown in these listings, e.g. involving substitution of one or more amino acid residues at one or more different sites in the amino acid sequence, deletion of one or more amino acid residues at either or both ends of the enzyme or at one or more sites in the amino acid sequence, or insertion of one or more amino acid residues at one or more sites in the amino acid sequence.

However, as will be apparent to the skilled person, amino acid changes are preferably of a minor nature, that is conservative amino acid substitutions that do not significantly affect the folding or activity of the protein, small deletions, typically of one to about 30 amino acids; small amino- or carboxyl-terminal extensions, such as an amino-terminal methionine residue, a small linker peptide of up to about 20-25

residues, or a small extension that facilitates purification, such as a poly-histidine tract, an antigenic epitope or a binding domain. See in general Ford et al., Protein Expression and Purification 2: 95-107, 1991. Examples of conservative
5 substitutions are within the group of basic amino acids (such as arginine, lysine, histidine), acidic amino acids (such as glutamic acid and aspartic acid), polar amino acids (such as glutamine and asparagine), hydrophobic amino acids (such as leucine, isoleucine, valine), aromatic amino acids (such as
10 phenylalanine, tryptophan, tyrosine) and small amino acids (such as glycine, alanine, serine, threonine, methionine).

It will also be apparent to persons skilled in the art that such substitutions can be made outside the regions critical to the function of the molecule and still result in an active poly-
15 peptide. Amino acids essential to the activity of the polypeptide encoded by the DNA construct of the invention, and therefore preferably not subject to substitution, may be identified according to procedures known in the art, such as site-directed mutagenesis or alanine-scanning mutagenesis (Cunningham and
20 Wells, Science 244, 1081-1085, 1989). In the latter technique mutations are introduced at every residue in the molecule, and the resultant mutant molecules are tested for biological (i.e. cellulase) activity to identify amino acid residues that are critical to the activity of the molecule. Sites of substrate-
25 enzyme interaction can also be determined by analysis of crystal structure as determined by such techniques as nuclear magnetic resonance, crystallography or photoaffinity labeling. See, for example, de Vos et al., Science 255: 306-312, 1992; Smith et al., J. Mol. Biol. 224: 899-904, 1992; Wlodaver et al., FEBS Lett.
30 309: 59-64, 1992.

The modification of the amino acid sequence may suitably be performed by modifying the DNA sequence encoding the enzyme, e.g. by site-directed or by random mutagenesis or a combination of these techniques in accordance with well-known procedures. Alter-
35 natively, the homologous sequence may be one of an enzyme derived from another origin than the cellulases corresponding to the amino acid sequences shown in each of the sequence listings shown

hereinafter, respectively. Thus, "homologue" may e.g. indicate a polypeptide encoded by DNA which hybridizes to the same probe as the DNA coding for the cellulase with the amino acid sequence in question under certain specified conditions (such as presoaking 5 in 5xSSC and prehybridising for 1 h at ~40°C in a solution of 20% formamide, 5xDenhardt's solution, 50 mM sodium phosphate, pH 6.8, and 50 mg of denatured sonicated calf thymus DNA, followed by hybridization in the same solution supplemented with 100 mM ATP for 18 h at ~40°C). The homologous sequence will normally 10 exhibit a degree of homology (in terms of identity) of at least 50%, such as at least 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90% or even 95% with the amino acid sequences shown in each of the sequence listings shown hereinafter, respectively.

The homology referred to above is determined as the degree 15 of identity between the two sequences indicating a derivation of the first sequence from the second. The homology may suitably be determined by means of computer programs known in the art such as GAP provided in the GCG program package (Needleman, S.B. and Wunsch, C.D., *Journal of Molecular Biology*, 48: 443-453, 1970).

20

Process conditions

The process conditions should be selected according to the characteristics of the cellulase to be used. For the cellulases described above, the following conditions can generally be used: 25 pH 4-9.5 (e.g. 5-9.5, particularly 6-8), 10-70°C (particularly 30-50°C) and a reaction time of 30 minutes - 5 hours. The pulp consistency will generally be in the range 0.3-40 % (typically 2-20 %), particularly in the range 2-10 % for non-recycled pulp and 10-20 % for pulp from recycled waste paper. For typical process 30 conditions, the cellulase is used at a dosage of 50 -2,000 ECU/kg pulp dry matter, particularly 100-1,000 ECU/kg (ECU unit defined below).

The pulp may optionally be beaten or refined in a conventional beater or refiner, either before, during or after 35 the treatment with cellulase; it is generally preferred to avoid excessive beating or refining as it tends to reduce the softness

of the sanitary paper, and in some cases beating or refining may be omitted.

After the cellulase treatment, the sanitary paper can be made from the treated pulp in a conventional papermaking machine.

5

Assay for cellulase activity (ECU)

The cellulase endo-activity is determined by the reduction of viscosity of CMC (carboxy-methyl cellulose) in a vibration viscosimeter. 1 ECU (endo-cellulase unit) is the amount of
10 activity which causes a 10-fold reduction of viscosity when incubated with 1 ml of a solution of 34.0 g/L of CMC (trade name Aqualon 7LFD) in 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.5), 40°C for 30 minutes.

15

EXAMPLES

Example 1

The pulp used in this example was a 1:1 mixture of NBKP and LBKP. The NBKP was made from a southern softwood mixture of pine
20 (Caribbean and Monterey), Douglas fir and redwood. The LBKP was made from hardwood containing maple, alder, birch, hickory and aspen. The coarseness was 19.3 for the NBKP and 16.8 for the LBKP.

The cellulase used in this example was EG I from *Humicola*
25 *insolens* DSM 1800 (Family 7). The following conditions were used:

Pulp consistency:	5 % w/w
pH:	7
Temperature:	40 °C
30 Reaction time:	2 hours
Stirring:	350 rpm.

Handsheets were prepared from the treated pulp according to Japan Industrial Standard, JIS 8209. Sheets of 20 g/m² were
35 tested for stiffness (Japanese Industrial Standard, JIS P8143), and sheets of 60 g/m² were tested for breaking length (JIS P8113).

The table below gives the absolute values of stiffness and breaking length for a control treated without cellulase. For the experiments with cellulase treatment, the table shows the relative change (in %) of these values compared to the control. Thus, ideally, the stiffness should decrease, while the breaking length should increase or remain constant.

	Cellulase	Dosage, ECU per kg dry matter	Stiffness	Breaking length
Control (absolute values)	None	0	22.75	2.11
Invention (% change)	Family 7	150	-30 %	-2 %
		225	-22 %	-3 %
		300	-37 %	-2 %

The above results demonstrate that a cellulase treatment according to the invention gave a decreased stiffness, i.e. a softer paper. The paper strength (breaking length) was nearly unchanged. The best results were obtained at a dosage of 300 ECU/kg pulp dry matter.

15 Example 2

The pulp used in this experiment was a 50:50 mixture of NBKP having a coarseness of 15.8 and LBKP having a coarseness of 8.5. The NBKP was made from a northern softwood mixture of fir, spruce, ponderosa pine, cedar and hemlock, and the LBKP was made from a hardwood mixture of acacia and eucalyptus. The pulp was treated in the same manner as in Example 1 at the enzyme dosages shown below. Results:

	Cellulase	Dosage (ECU per kg dry matter)	Stiffness	Breaking length
Control (absolute values)	None	0	21.2	2.19
Invention (% change)	Family 7	300	-16 %	-2 %
		600	-33 %	+18 %

Advantageously, the results with this pulp show that at the highest dosage tested, the sanitary paper became significantly softer and stronger.

5

Example 3

The pulp used in Example 1 was treated with the following cellulases according to the invention: C173 from *Myceliophthora thermophila* (Family 12), EG V-core from *Humicola insolens* (Family 10 45). The pulp was treated at pH 6 since this is close to the optimum pH for the cellulases.

Other process conditions were: Pulp consistency 3 % w/w, temperature 30 °C, reaction time 2 hours, stirring 400 rpm. Handsheets were prepared and tested as in Example 1. The results 15 are shown as absolute value for the control, and % change (compared to the control) for the other experiments.

	Cellulase	Dosage (ECU/kg dry matter)	Stiffness	Breaking length
Control (absolute value)	None	0	25.2	1.92
Invention (% change)	Family 12	300	-23 %	+1 %
		600	-23 %	+4 %
	Family 45	300	-3 %	+3 %
		600	-29 %	+12 %

The results above show that both cellulases according to the invention are effective for making the sanitary paper softer and stronger.

5

Example 4

EG I from *Humicola insolens* DSM 1800 (Family 7) was tested at the same conditions as in Example 3, except that a pH 7 was selected as being suitable for this cellulase.

10

	Cellulase	Dosage (ECU/kg dry matter)	Stiffness	Breaking length
Control (absolute value)	None	0	18.2	1.73
Invention (% change)	Family 7	300	-21 %	-3 %
		600	-10 %	+3 %

This example was made with the same pulp and cellulase as in Example 1, but at different conditions (temperature, pulp consistency, stirring and dosage). The results show that also at
15 these consitions, the cellulase treatment gave a softer paper with nearly unchanged strength. The best result was obtained at a dosage of 300 ECU/kg pulp dry matter.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(i) APPLICANT:

(A) NAME: Novo Nordisk A/S
 (B) STREET: Novo Alle
 (C) CITY: Bagsvaerd
 (E) COUNTRY: DENMARK
 (F) POSTAL CODE (ZIP): DK-2880
 (G) TELEPHONE: +45 4444 8888
 (H) TELEFAX: +45 4449 3256

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: Production of Sanitary Paper

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 2

(iv) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

(A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
 (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
 (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
 (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version
 #1.30 (EPO)

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 744 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(vi) ORIGINAL SOURCE:

(A) ORGANISM: Myceliophthora thermophila
 (B) STRAIN: CBS 117.65

(ix) FEATURE:

(A) NAME/KEY: mat_peptide
 (B) LOCATION:1..744

(ix) FEATURE:

(A) NAME/KEY: CDS
 (B) LOCATION:1..744

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 1:

ATG CAG CCG TTT CTG CTC TTG TTC CTC TCG TCG GTC ACG GCG GCG AGC
 48
 Met Gln Pro Phe Leu Leu Leu Phe Leu Ser Ser Val Thr Ala Ala Ser
 1 5 10 15
 CCC CTG ACG GCG CTC GAC AAG CGG CAG CAG GCG ACG TTG TGC GAG CAG
 Pro Leu Thr Ala Leu Asp Lys Arg Gln Gln Ala Thr Leu Cys Glu Gln
 20 25 30

TAC GGC TAC TGG TCG GGC AAC GGT TAC GAG GTC AAC AAC AAC AAC TGG Tyr Gly Tyr Trp Ser Gly Asn Gly Tyr Glu Val Asn Asn Asn Asn Trp 35 40 45	144
GGC AAG GAT TCG GCC TCG GGC GGC CAT CAG TGC ACC TAC GTC GAC AGC Gly Lys Asp Ser Ala Ser Gly Gly His Gln Cys Thr Tyr Val Asp Ser 50 55 60	192
AGC AGC TCC AGC GGC GTC GCC TGG CAC ACG ACC TGG CAG TGG GAA GGA Ser Ser Ser Ser Gly Val Ala Trp His Thr Thr Trp Gln Trp Glu Gly 65 70 75 80	240
GGC CAG AAC CAG GTC AAG AGC TTC GCC AAC TGC GGT CTG CAG GTG CCC Gly Gln Asn Gln Val Lys Ser Phe Ala Asn Cys Gly Leu Gln Val Pro 85 90 95	288
AAG GGC AGG ACC ATC TCG TCC ATC AGC AAC CTG CAG ACC TCC ATC TCG Lys Gly Arg Thr Ile Ser Ser Ile Ser Asn Leu Gln Thr Ser Ile Ser 100 105 110	336
TGG TCC TAC AGC AAC ACC AAC ATC CGC GCC AAC GTG GTC TAC GAC CTC Trp Ser Tyr Ser Asn Thr Asn Ile Arg Ala Asn Val Val Tyr Asp Leu 115 120 125	384
TTC ACC GCG GCA GAC CCG AAC CAC GCG ACC AGC AGC GGC GAC TAC GAG Phe Thr Ala Ala Asp Pro Asn His Ala Thr Ser Ser Gly Asp Tyr Glu 130 135 140	432
CTC ATG ATC TGG CTG GCG AGA TTC GGC GAC GTC TAC CCC ATC GGC TCG Leu Met Ile Trp Leu Ala Arg Phe Gly Asp Val Tyr Pro Ile Gly Ser 145 150 155 160	480
TCC CAG GGC CAC GTC AAC GTG GCC GGC CAG GAC TGG GAG CTG TGG ACG Ser Gln Gly His Val Asn Val Ala Gly Gln Asp Trp Glu Leu Trp Thr 165 170 175	528
GGC TTC AAC GGC AAC ATG CGG GTC TAC AGC TTC GTA GCG CCC AGC CCC Gly Phe Asn Gly Asn Met Arg Val Tyr Ser Phe Val Ala Pro Ser Pro 180 185 190	576
CGC AAC AGC TTC AGC GCC AAC GTC AAG GAC TTC TTC AAC TAT CTC CAG Arg Asn Ser Phe Ser Ala Asn Val Lys Asp Phe Phe Asn Tyr Leu Gln 195 200 205	624
TCC AAC CAG GGC TTC CCG GCC AGC AGC CAA TAC CTT CTC ATC TTC CAG Ser Asn Gln Gly Phe Pro Ala Ser Ser Gln Tyr Leu Leu Ile Phe Gln 210 215 220	672
GCG GGC ACC GAG CCC TTC ACC GGC GGC GAG ACC ACC CTT ACC GTC AAC Ala Gly Thr Glu Pro Phe Thr Gly Gly Glu Thr Thr Leu Thr Val Asn 225 230 235 240	720
AAC TAC TCT GCA AGG GTT GCT TAA Asn Tyr Ser Ala Arg Val Ala * 245	744

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 248 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 2:

```

Met Gln Pro Phe Leu Leu Leu Phe Leu Ser Ser Val Thr Ala Ala Ser
 1             5             10             15

Pro Leu Thr Ala Leu Asp Lys Arg Gln Gln Ala Thr Leu Cys Glu Gln
          20             25             30

Tyr Gly Tyr Trp Ser Gly Asn Gly Tyr Glu Val Asn Asn Asn Asn Trp
      35             40             45

Gly Lys Asp Ser Ala Ser Gly Gly His Gln Cys Thr Tyr Val Asp Ser
 50             55             60

Ser Ser Ser Ser Gly Val Ala Trp His Thr Thr Trp Gln Trp Glu Gly
 65             70             75             80

Gly Gln Asn Gln Val Lys Ser Phe Ala Asn Cys Gly Leu Gln Val Pro
          85             90             95

Lys Gly Arg Thr Ile Ser Ser Ile Ser Asn Leu Gln Thr Ser Ile Ser
      100             105             110

Trp Ser Tyr Ser Asn Thr Asn Ile Arg Ala Asn Val Val Tyr Asp Leu
      115             120             125

Phe Thr Ala Ala Asp Pro Asn His Ala Thr Ser Ser Gly Asp Tyr Glu
      130             135             140

Leu Met Ile Trp Leu Ala Arg Phe Gly Asp Val Tyr Pro Ile Gly Ser
      145             150             155             160

Ser Gln Gly His Val Asn Val Ala Gly Gln Asp Trp Glu Leu Trp Thr
          165             170             175

Gly Phe Asn Gly Asn Met Arg Val Tyr Ser Phe Val Ala Pro Ser Pro
      180             185             190

Arg Asn Ser Phe Ser Ala Asn Val Lys Asp Phe Phe Asn Tyr Leu Gln
      195             200             205

Ser Asn Gln Gly Phe Pro Ala Ser Ser Gln Tyr Leu Leu Ile Phe Gln
      210             215             220

Ala Gly Thr Glu Pro Phe Thr Gly Gly Glu Thr Thr Leu Thr Val Asn
      225             230             235             240

Asn Tyr Ser Ala Arg Val Ala *
          245

```

CLAIMS

1. A method for making sanitary paper, comprising:
 - 5 (a) treating a papermaking pulp with a cellulase in the absence of a cellulose-binding domain, and
 - (b) making the sanitary paper from the treated pulp.
2. The method of the preceding claim wherein the cellulase
10 belongs to Family 7.
3. The method of the preceding claim wherein the cellulase is EG I derived from a strain of *Humicola*, preferably *H. insolens*, most preferably strain DSM 1800, or a cellulase having
15 at least 60% homology with said cellulase.
4. The method of the preceding claim wherein the cellulase has an amino acid sequence comprising the amino acid residues 21-417 and optionally all or part of the residues 418-435 in the
20 sequence of EG I from *H. insolens* DSM 1800, or has at least 60% homology with said sequence.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the cellulase belongs to Family 12.
- 25 6. The method of the preceding claim wherein the cellulase is a cellulase derived from *Myceliophthora*, preferably *M. thermophila*, most preferably CBS 117.65 or a cellulase having at least 60% homology with said cellulase.
- 30 7. The method of the preceding claim wherein the cellulase has the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 or has at least 60 % homology with said sequence.
- 35 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the cellulase belongs to Family 45.

9. The method of the preceding claim wherein the cellulase is truncated EG V derived from a strain of *Humicola*, preferably a strain of *H. insolens*, most preferably the strain DSM 1800 or has at least 60 % homology with said truncated EG V.

5

10. The method of the preceding claim wherein said EG V is truncated to positions 1-213.

11. The method of any preceding claim wherein the cellulase
10 consists essentially of a single component.

12. The method of any preceding claim wherein the papermaking pulp comprises 5-95 % of softwood pulp and 5-95% of hardwood pulp.

15

13. The method of the preceding claim wherein the papermaking pulp comprises softwood bleached Kraft pulp (SWBK) and hardwood bleached Kraft pulp (HWBK).

20 14. The method of the preceding claim wherein the SWBK has a coarseness above 18 and the HWBK has a coarseness above 10.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the papermaking pulp is a mixture of SWBK having a coarseness below 18 and HWBK having a
25 coarseness below 10.

16. The method of any preceding claim wherein the papermaking pulp is prepared by disintegrating a dried pulp in water.

30 17. The method of any preceding claim which does not include beating or refining of the papermaking pulp.

18. The method of any preceding claim wherein the cellulase is used at a dosage of 50-2,000 ECU per kg of pulp dry matter.

35

19. The method of any preceding claim wherein the treatment is carried out at a temperature in the range 10-70°C.

20. The method of any preceding claim wherein the treatment is carried out at a pH in the range 4-9.5.
- 5 21. The method of any preceding claim wherein the treatment is carried out for a period of 30 minutes - 5 hours.
22. The method of any preceding claim wherein the treatment is carried out at a pulp consistency of 0.3-40 %.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/DK 97/00034

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: D21H 11/20

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: D21H

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPI

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	File WPI, Derwent accession no. 93-224721, SANYO SCOTT KK: "Sanitary tissue with high strength, etc. - mfd. by adding cellulase to plant fibre pulp slurry and making into paper without beating"; JP,A,5148794, 930615 --	1-22
Y	WO 9524471 A1 (NOVO NORDISK A/S), 14 Sept 1995 (14.09.95), abstract, page 3, line 17 - page 14, line 19; page 3, line 1 - line 11; page 39, line 23 - line 34; page 40, line 30 - line 36 --	1-22
A	WO 9600811 A1 (SCOTT PAPER COMPANY), 11 January 1996 (11.01.96), abstract, page 8, line 11 - line 33; page 13, line 27 - page 14, line 19 --	1-22

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

24 April 1997

Date of mailing of the international search report

08 -05- 1997

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Swedish Patent Office
Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM
Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86

Authorized officer

Barbro Nilsson
Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/DK 97/00034

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 9117243 A1 (NOVO NORDISK A/S), 14 November 1991 (14.11.91), abstract -----	1-22

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/DK 97/00034

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9524471 A1	14/09/95	AU 1890095 A DE 29509606 U EP 0749473 A	25/09/95 08/02/96 27/12/96
WO 9600811 A1	11/01/96	AU 2913295 A US 5582681 A	25/01/96 10/12/96
WO 9117243 A1	14/11/91	AT 118545 T AU 639570 B AU 7887491 A CA 2082279 A DE 69107455 D,T EP 0531372 A,B ES 2068586 T JP 5509223 T	15/03/95 29/07/93 27/11/91 10/11/91 12/10/95 17/03/93 16/04/95 22/12/93